

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 407

Expressing support for designation of May as “National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Ms. BORDALLO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of May as “National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month”.

Whereas allergies are among the most common and overlooked diseases in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 50,000,000 or 1 in 5 Americans suffer from all types of allergies;

Whereas approximately 2,200,000 million school-aged children have food allergy and the number of American children under 5 years of age with peanut allergy doubled between 1999 and 2004;

Whereas the prevalence of allergies has consistently increased since the early 1980s in the United States across all age, sex, and racial groups;

Whereas allergies are the most frequently reported chronic condition in children, the third most common chronic disease among children under the age of 18, and the third-ranking cause of hospitalizations for children;

Whereas 4,000 people die each year from asthma-related causes, and asthma is a contributing factor in another 7,000 deaths every year;

Whereas many allergic reactions are severe enough to cause death;

Whereas it is estimated that the cost of allergies is nearly \$7,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas an estimated 20,000,000 or 1 in 15 Americans suffer from asthma, and 50 percent of asthma cases are “allergic-asthma”;

Whereas, due to asthma, each day in America 40,000 people miss school or work, 30,000 people have an attack, 5,000 people visit the emergency room, 1,000 people are admitted to the hospital, and 11 people die;

Whereas asthma is the most common chronic condition among children, affecting more than 1 of every 20 children;

Whereas asthma is more common among children (7 to 10 percent) than adults (3 to 5 percent);

Whereas nearly 5,000,000 asthma sufferers are under the age of 18;

Whereas ethnic differences in asthma prevalence, morbidity, and mortality are highly correlated with poverty, urban

air quality, indoor allergens, lack of patient education, and inadequate medical care;

Whereas asthma accounts for one-quarter of all emergency room visits in the United States each year, with 2,000,000 emergency room visits;

Whereas each year, asthma accounts for more than 10,000,000 outpatient visits and 500,000 hospitalizations;

Whereas 44 percent of all asthma hospitalizations are for children;

Whereas asthma is the third-ranking cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15;

Whereas among children ages 5 to 17, asthma is the leading cause of school absences from a chronic illness;

Whereas asthma accounts for an annual loss of more than 12,800,000 school days per year, which is approximately 8 days for each student with asthma, and it is estimated that children with asthma spend nearly 8,000,000 days per year restricted to bed;

Whereas the annual cost of asthma is estimated to be nearly \$19,700,000,000;

Whereas the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America first declared “National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Week” 25 years ago in May 1984;

Whereas each year, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America declares May as “National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month”; and

Whereas the month of May 2009 would be an appropriate month to designate a “National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of “National
3 Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month”;

4 (2) supports the designation of a “National
5 Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month”;

6 (3) encourages local communities to raise
7 awareness surrounding the prevalence of asthma and
8 allergies;

9 (4) encourages awareness about disparities in
10 asthma cases based on race, ethnicity, and economic
11 status;

12 (5) recognizes and salutes health care profes-
13 sionals that treat asthma- and allergy-related health
14 issues each day; and

15 (6) recognizes and reaffirms the Nation’s com-
16 mitment to continued education surrounding asthma
17 and allergy treatment and symptoms and to advanc-
18 ing care for both asthma and allergy conditions.

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